

1. What is the purpose of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan and why is a template being created?

- a. For more information on the background and detail on this template, please see [House Bill 1032](#) and the executive summary associated with the template.

2. Who is required to submit a WMP to the state of Washington?

- a. Any electric utility operating, fully or partially, in the state of Washington must provide a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) in the designated format to the state of Washington by October 31, 2024, either individually or filing jointly with another utility. An updated and reviewed version must be submitted every three years after that.

3. Is this a public facing document?

- a. All WMPs submitted to the state will be hosted by the Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee on the Department of Natural Resources' website and will be accessible to members of the public.

4. Some of the elements listed would contain internal or proprietary information or information that could pose a risk to operations if shared publicly. Can a redacted or summarized version be provided that does not include sensitive information?

- a. There is no expectation that sensitive or proprietary information be shared, or full utility program documentation be provided. The WMP is intended to be a document that provides enough information to describe efforts to understand and address wildfire risks across the state. Level of detail and specificity included is at the discretion of each utility or joint utility submission.

5. If a utility service area goes beyond the state of Washington, is the utility expected to share details of operations for the entire service area?

- a. The information provided in the WMP submitted to the state of Washington should focus on the service area within Washington State. The exception to this being if working with local entities is part of emergency planning and response and those local entities are across state lines.

6. Has the state determined or provided any terrain or service area definitions?

- a. For the purposes of the 2024 WMP template, there are not pre-determined terrain layers required to be used by all utilities. There are industry definitions, including a WUI layer developed and maintained by Washington DNR, that may be used by utilities. Any standard used may be cited or described in the WMP but is not required.

7. Has the state determined or provided any risk mapping or high-fire threat areas?

- a. For the purposes of the 2024 WMP template, there are not pre-determined risk areas or other risk mapping criteria. Risk assessment is left to the discretion of each utility. By 2026, DNR will have developed statewide wildfire hazard and risk maps.

8. Why hasn't the state provided more guidance or standardization for what utilities should track or include in their wildfire mitigation plans?

- a. Each utility's topography, vegetation, weather conditions and assets are unique. So, wildfire hazards and assets at risk are unique. Because of this, it is important that each utility evaluates the hazards and risks within their specific service territory. DNR continues to monitor the evolving wildfire landscape and will work with utilities to provide technical support meet the needs of that evolving landscape.

9. If DNR isn't regulating the content of the WMP, why is there a section for industry standards and best practices to be listed?

- a. Even though DNR has not specified any standard(s) to follow, several utilities may have implemented standards as a uniform way to implement a program or adopted industry recommended formats to fit their needs. This table is a way to note those instances to demonstrate the basis and provide a reference.

10. Even though DNR has not specified standards to use, are there any resources that can be referenced to assist with continuous improvement or wildfire mitigation program development?

- a. There are several nationally and industry recognized frameworks and resources that can be utilized as a starting point and tailored to the needs of each utility. Some examples (list not exhaustive) include:
 - i. [Washington DNR Wildfire Resources](#): several resources regarding wildfire research, community preparedness, burn risk maps, and wildfire contacts
 - ii. [FEMA](#): Frameworks and resources for emergency planning, preparedness, and recovery. Not all resources are wildfire specific but may be tailored to wildfire recovery needs.
 - 1. USFA: US Fire Association has [wildfire specific](#) FEMA resources including outreach materials, Fire-Adapted Communities information, data and research, and others
 - iii. US Forest Service: [Wildfire crisis](#) page has information on land management and other information and resources
 - iv. [NIST WUI Group](#): research on spread and WUI impacts

11. Is there a distinction made between Public Safety Power Shutoff and De-energization in this template?

- a. Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS is a commonly used industry term for efforts and plans to temporarily de-energize specific areas of the grid to reduce the risk of fires caused by electric infrastructure and is recognized as a safety measure of last resort. While PSPS is how most utilities would identify this program, not all utilities are comfortable with this term and the decision to either have or not have this type of

practice is at the operational discretion of the individual utility. These terms are both included to allow flexibility in reporting.

12. There are references to programs and roles and responsibilities in the template, but smaller utilities and utilities operating in lower risk areas may not have dedicated staff or programs that are exclusive to wildfire. Are utilities expected to include operating information outside of wildfire mitigation?

- a. For the purposes of this template, there is no expectation that utilities create new or exclusive roles or programs. Rather, these sections provide an opportunity to describe how resources are utilized in ways that help with wildfire mitigation efforts. For example, even if a vegetation management program is not exclusively for wildfire mitigation, a utility may describe programs that help keep vegetation cleared from potential ignition sources. Further, if internal staff have wildfire mitigation obligations that fall within their overall role at the utility, only the role as it applies to wildfire mitigation needs to be described.

13. Are all utilities expected to have programs developed for all elements identified in the template?

- a. No. Washington state has a broad range of wildfire risk areas with some areas carrying very little risk of potential wildfire impact. In the instance that no need for a given mitigation strategy has been identified, the utility may describe the context that reduces risk or that an element does not apply at the present time and will remain under consideration with each review of the mitigation plan.

14. Why are all timelines referenced in three-year periods? Can a WMP be updated more frequently?

- a. The Legislature requires that utilities provide their WMP in the recommended format every three years; therefore, the format requests all WMP updates occurring since the most recent required submission and a forward look at planning up to three years ahead. Individual utilities may choose to review and update more frequently, e.g., annually.

15. Are there any resources available for specific questions that may come up while filling out the WMP?

- a. Yes! Please see the executive summary in the WMP for contact information for any additional questions. DNR and the Department of Commerce are available for support through the WMP process.